

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA, ORR

MONTH OF MARCH 1955

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

A. Accomplishments and Coordination Activities

1. Several major accomplishments stand out from the rather large production of the four divisions during the month of March.

a. The Cartography Division produced three maps on Indonesia for ONE on a crash basis as well as several maps for the Egypt and Anglo-Egyptian Sudan Affairs Office of the Department of State. The latter maps were used for planning and the briefing of Secretary of State Dulles. Eighty maps and charts, which is the highest monthly production over the last two-year period, included 63 for CIA, two for the USAF and 15 for the Department of State.

b. The Photo Intelligence Division spent 77.6% of its total project time in support of DCI, OCI, and D/S projects. A sizeable contribution was especially made on the Chinese-Communist situation for OCI and in direct support of Watch Committee activities. The interpretation of relatively current photography has placed an increasing responsibility on this division to devote full attention to the exploitation of this intelligence source.

c. The Map Library receipts of foreign maps during March included 1,500 series sheets from the Netherlands for AMS and a considerable number of special subject maps from the USSR, Japan, the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, and India. The division has successfully stepped up its procurement activities in certain areas through the preparation of letters to potential map sources and as a follow through on contacts established in the past. Two-hundred and fifty-eight communications were prepared and sent through Department of State channels to the field.

d. The Geography Division has produced a number of reports on selected areas, especially the Far East, in support of high level planning and in background information for DD/P operational activities. A considerable amount of E & E work, especially the review of manuals and evasion route studies prepared for components of the Air Force, was completed. A project for OSI on potential guided missile ranges in the USSR was forwarded. A summary of US capabilities in geodetic positioning with respect to the USSR was prepared also for OSI.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

DOCUMENT NO. 1  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
DECLASSIFIED ☐  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE:   
AUTH: HR 70-2

1981

2. A significant trend has taken place over the last several months and recently culminated in a revision of our responsibilities regarding E & E work for the Air Force. Because of the close examination of the E & E Program initiated by new responsible officials in the Air Force, the Geography Division will assume a different role in its E & E work. The "B" Area studies for SAC are no longer required and their place will be taken by a revised form of the "C" Area study and the development of material on rescue and evasion routes. There is also an indication that the Geography Division may be asked to assume certain executive functions which would involve review, editing, and publication of manuscripts prepared by the Air University under contract with APOIN. The E & E Program will be thoroughly examined at an April conference in Washington to which employees of the division will go and participate.

3. A staff study requesting area familiarization trips for the purpose of further development of area competence of personnel in the Geographic Area has been forwarded and approved and a detailed study for each trip is now being prepared for submittal to the DD/I. It is intended that the area familiarization program of training will be scheduled for a number of individuals over the succeeding years.

4. The desirability of placing a geographer in [REDACTED] has been 25X1X7 brought to the attention of the AD/RR and there seems to be some interest in this proposal. The integration of a geographer into the [REDACTED] program 25X1X7 could be beneficial to both parties and would certainly develop a closer relationship between ourselves and the [REDACTED] in the preparation of 25X1X7 various types of regional analyses.

25X1A9a  
25X1A9a  
5. The Chief, Geographic Research and [REDACTED] met with the AD/RR and [REDACTED] to discuss the role that certain aspects of the field of geophysics could and should play in our intelligence mission. It was concluded that a study should be made of the specific fields organizationally encompassed under geophysics for the purpose of relating them to specific intelligence objectives and possible applications to our current research program and responsibilities.

6. The Chief, Geographic Research participated with other representatives of the Government in an Advisory Committee Meeting for the U.S. Member of PAIGH.

25X1A9a  
7. The Special Assistant to the AD/RR, the Chief, Geographic Research and his Special Assistant, met with [REDACTED] of the Office of Training, to discuss the management training problems facing the Agency and to recommend another effort by the Office of Training in meeting these

25X1A9a problems. Specifically, a course designed to apply to division and AD level management situation was recommended. It is our understanding that [REDACTED] is currently planning the establishment of this course, which it is anticipated will get under way in October, 1955.

25X1A9a 8. The DD/P urban area request was summarily dealt with at a meeting including the AD/RR, Ch/G, and [REDACTED]. After months of effort to examine the urban area problem and Agency responsibilities for handling it, the one thing that seemed to emerge was the serious question as to whether DD/P needed the studies. Conversations between the AD/RR and 25X1A [REDACTED] and others, uncovered an apparent uncoordinated request for a major urban area study effort based upon a single components's planning. Although all requests coming to this Office have been signed by appropriate responsible officials, the above conversations and meetings caused a forced reexamination of the DD/P request by the same responsible officials. Subsequently, follow-up on the progress of this reexamination has tentatively revealed a concern that the urban area work is not under way and that the request is still valid as far as the need for the information.

9. The staff of the Geographic Area prepared a detailed statement on career development in the Area for consideration by the CSB/RR. This became the basis for discussion at several meetings but has not yet received the official blessing of CSB/RR because of the lack of an over all Office policy on career development. It is hoped that the Ch/G can devote sufficient time to carrying out the suggestion that he made at the last meeting of the CSB to the effect that a working group assume responsibility for drafting a policy statement for Board consideration.

10. The draft notice resulting from the management survey of the Photo Intelligence Division was reviewed and revised and forwarded to Management for issuance. Subsequent conversations with the Editorial Review Board responsible for notice issuance has clarified certain inconformities which existed in the proposed issuance.

11. The Geographic Area prepared a consolidated statement of training requirements estimated for FY 55 and 56. Also prepared was an estimate of cost in preparing for and briefing the Clark Committee.

12. A number of employees of the Geographic Area attended the American Society of Photogrammetry meetings, the American Congress of Survey and Mapping meetings, and the Far Eastern Association meetings.

13. Discussions with the Chief, Economic Research, his deputy, and the AD/RR have led to an examination of developing a closer relationship between the two areas in the preparation of selected research studies. This development follows closely upon a concern expressed by Ch/G within the Geographic Area and to responsible officials in the Office that every

attempt should be made to fully utilize the existing area competence<sup>e</sup> which has been developed over a long period of years in the Geographic Area and to apply this area competence to important research projects which are supposed to be related to national intelligence objectives. The several proposed projects which may become pilot studies to be worked on jointly by representatives of ERA and GRA may prove the necessity for examining the old pattern of area research efforts and ultimately result in a favorable integration of certain capabilities now held and independently exploited by the three areas.

13. The interest expressed by the AD/RR in establishing a group of slots for training use only is of tremendous interest to the Geographic Area. It is hoped, however, that the expressed interest in training a large number of economists in regional studies will be carefully examined in view of the fact that a certain amount of area competence already exists in ORR and can be readily utilized through careful planning of future work programs. The Geographic Area would certainly encourage a regional approach and will cooperate in any way possible to aid in the development of regional analyses by employees anywhere in ORR.